

CONGRESSWOMAN

Carolyn McCarthy

Protecting our Nation's Defense - 107th Congress

The new security environment requires a military force that is balanced to counter both conventional and unconventional threats and is armed with strong intelligence gathering and analysis capabilities. To that end, this year Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy fully supported the Fiscal Year 2003 defense authorization and appropriations bills. These bills, which have overwhelming bipartisan support, are ready for consideration in conference once Congress returns from recess. Congresswoman McCarthy is dedicated to funding defense to ensure America wins the war on terrorism, sustaining our military readiness, transforming the way the nation defends itself in a post-Cold War world, at the same time, enhancing American intelligence capabilities.

STRENGTHENING OUR MILITARY

- √ Supporting a broad-based and sustained effort against terrorism that will ensure the security of the country, Congresswoman McCarthy voted for the **National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2002**, which authorized \$343.284 billion for the country's defense activities in FY 2002. This was an increase of 10 percent over the FY 2001 level.
 - This legislation authorized the resources our military will need to continue the fight against terrorism and the protection of the United States.
 - It authorized the funding increases for readiness, and to take care of our men and women in uniform by increasing their pay and expanding their health benefits.
 - It also increased funding for ballistic missile defense programs.
- √ Understanding that more resources are needed to defend the United States and to continue the war against global terrorism, Congresswoman McCarthy voted for the **National Defense Appropriations Act for FY 2002**, which provides \$317.5 billion in new budget authority for the Department of Defense and includes emergency supplemental spending.
 - Provides nearly \$30 billion more than the amount enacted for the Fiscal Year 2001 and the emergency supplemental measure provides another \$3.5 billion.
 - Contains funding for pay increases of up to 15 percent for service members, with

- an average increase of 6.9 percent.
 - Reduces out-of-pocket housing costs for military personnel from 15 percent to 11 percent.
 - Fully funds the health care of active duty members and their families, and provides \$3.9 billion for health care benefits for military retirees over 65, and their families.
 - Contains almost \$50 billion for research and development, including nearly \$8 billion for missile defense.
 - Includes \$20 billion in emergency funding for defense, disaster relief, and homeland security was provided on this bill in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11.
 - \$8.2 billion for disaster relief for New York, New Jersey, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.
 - \$3.5 billion for defense, and \$8.3 billion for homeland defense.
 - Dedicates \$881 million for a new Defense Department account devoted to counter-terrorism activities and other unconventional threats.
 - The emergency supplemental funding in this bill includes \$3.5 billion to help prosecute the war on terror, \$8.2 billion to help New York, Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia and Pennsylvania recover from the attacks, and devotes an additional \$8.4 billion to homeland security.
- √ Even before the successful unmanned air vehicle in Afghanistan, Congresswoman McCarthy joined a number of her colleagues in securing funding for the Navy's Maritime Global Hawk Initiative.
 - √ Helped secure 35 additional H-60 helicopters for the Armed Services, including the National Guard.
 - √ Worked with her New York colleagues to secure funding for critical Defense programs to modernize the Navy's radar capabilities and to upgrade the Air Force's research efforts.

RESPONDING TO SEPTEMBER 11

UNITY IN THE FACE OF TERRORISM--The deaths of nearly 3,000 people on September 11 put the issue of national security among the most pressing issues facing Congress. As a people with a profound love of freedom and liberty, Americans are prepared to bear even its greatest costs. Congresswoman McCarthy believes that in this new terrorist environment, we must close off as many avenues of attack as possible.

- √ Voted to Express the Sense of Congress condemning the horrible acts of terrorism committed against the United States on September 11, 2001.
- √ Voted for H.J. Res. 64 which authorized the President to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines who planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, as well as those who harbored such organizations or persons. This action could prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations or persons.
- √ Recognizing the need for immediate victim relief, recovery assistance, and longer term efforts to rebuild damaged infrastructure, to bolster security for the nation's transportation system and key domestic and overseas facilities, and to expand law enforcement, intelligence, and other counter-terrorism capabilities, Congresswoman McCarthy joined her colleagues in passing an emergency supplemental appropriation that provided \$40 billion in FY2001 and FY2002.
 - Funded Operation Enduring Freedom to liberate the Afghan people from the repressive and violent Taliban regime and route out the terrorist networks.
 - Funded combat air patrols off the east and west coasts, increased patrols along the coasts, and the stationing National Guard personnel at airports.
 - Improved Command and Communication Systems enabling the military to better communicate with local, state, and federal offices
 - Enhanced physical security for ships, aircraft and other military installations.
 - Improved our intelligence and surveillance capabilities through the purchase of such things as additional unmanned aerial surveillance vehicles.
- √ Congresswoman McCarthy lobbied the President with her colleagues to ensure \$20 billion must be available for disaster and other humanitarian relief in New York.
- √ Congresswoman McCarthy supported extending the deadline for granting posthumous citizenship to individuals who die while on active-duty service in the Armed Forces.

SECURING THE HOMELAND

- √ Committed to improving intelligence performance and minimizing the possibility of surprise attacks, Congresswoman McCarthy supported **H.R. 2883, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002**, which increased funding to enhance human intelligence capabilities and the ability to coordinate the work of separate agencies.
 - Addressed many urgent counter terrorism needs of the CIA, FBI and NSA, and enhances the Intelligence Community's analytical and linguistic capacity.
 - Directly addresses Intelligence Community shortfalls in domestic counter

terrorism efforts, intelligence collection and analysis, threat reporting, aggressive recruitment of human assets, and sharing of intelligence information and analysis across the government.

H.R. 3150, the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, passed Congress in November 2001. To prevent further terrorist attacks using those aircraft as weapons Congresswoman McCarthy and her colleagues focused their attention on aviation security and passed the H.R. 3150, Aviation and Transportation Security Act.

- √ The bill:
 - Requires all checked baggage to be screened by explosive detection systems by December 31, 2002.
 - Required the federal government to assume responsibility for airport screening, making airline baggage screeners, federal employees.
 - Provides funds for air carriers to defray the costs of security enhancements to aircraft such as fortifying cockpit doors or installing video surveillance cameras.
 - Strengthened the Federal Air Marshal program.
 - Established a new security agency within the Transportation Department to take charge of airport security, conduct background checks on security personnel, and enforce stringent employment, training, and performance standards for screeners.

TAKING CARE OF THOSE WHO CARED FOR AMERICA ON 9/11

- √ Voted for an emergency supplemental appropriations to enhance state and local response capabilities by providing preparedness grants for states and localities to train and equip first responders.
- √ Supported dramatic increase in the size and scope of the Assistance to Firefighters Program, so that firefighters have the training and equipment to deal with weapons of mass destruction incidents.
- √ Supported establishing a task force to assess the kind of education and training that is appropriate for the DOD to provide to military personnel of Latin American nations.

FOCUSING ON HUMANITARIAN AND PUBLIC INTEREST

- √ Expressed the Sense of Congress the DOD should field alternatives to anti-personnel and anti-tank land mines systems and that the United States should end its use of such mines.
- √ Supported prohibiting a State from determining a ballot submitted by a uniformed services voter was improperly or fraudulently cast unless there is convincing evidence.

√ Expressed solidarity with Israel in its fight against terrorism.